This was the first meeting between Dr. Gray and Spencer F. Baird, second secretary of the Smithsonian Institution, who at that time, an ardent young naturalist of twenty-three, was professor of natural history at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pa. The friendship thus begun between Gray and Baird was intimate and lifelong, lasting for more than forty years, and it had great constructive influence in the advancement of natural history in America. It was clearly Baird's discovery of the box huckleberry, the very same patch in Pennsylvania about which I have been writing, that chiefly drew the two men together at their first meeting, and since this charming little thousand-year-old lady of the forest has done so much for American naturalists, the least we can do in return is to try to keep her living forever.[1]

Frederick V. Coville

VINAL N. EDWARDS

Workers in science who are wont to visit Wood's Hole during the summer months will miss the familiar figure and kindly greeting of one who has been identified with every piece of faunistic work that has been carried on at the Fish Commission Laboratory since the time of Baird, and one whose wide range of activity, intimate knowledge absolute reliability and willingness to serve have made him a most valuable source of information and assistance to those connected with the "Marine Laboratory" since the time of its foundation. Vinal N. Edwards, in the continuous service of the government for over sixty years, died on April 5, 1919, and leaves vacant a place in the vital affairs of Wood's Hole that can not be filled.

If a young enthusiast felt that by early rising he might steal an advantage over other collaborators, his arrival at "the commission" found Vinal already hard at work. If a trip was made to the gulf stream, Vinal was the man that knew when, where and how to gain profit out of the expedition. If it were a quiet night, ideal for "skimming," it was Vinal's skiff that was moving silently among the slicks. Throughout the day, in the corridors of the laboratories, on the wharf or at the traps—it made no difference where—probably no sentence was more frequently heard than "I don't know, ask Vinal."

Untaught in the modern conception of the word, courteous in his manner, unmentioned in "Who's Who," unrecorded in "American Men of Science," here was a man remarkably well informed, courteous and friendly in his association with men, well known to a multitude of educators, and one upon whom many of the foremost workers in biological science relied for information and advice. It is probable that hundreds of new species have resulted from his activities as a collector. In Verrill's report on the invertebrates of Vineyard Sound, his name is repeatedly mentioned. Smith's paper on the fishes of the Wood's Hole region would have been impossible without his help, and those who were associated in the preparation and publication of the "Biological Survey of the Waters of Wood's Hole and Vicinity" frequently stated that one of the motives which originally prompted this work was the "desire to incorporate in a permanent form the valuable but unpublished data in the possession of this indefatigable collector and observer."

In order that the life and work of Vinal N. Edwards may not become forgotten, testimonials from several sources have been collected, and bound copies of these will be deposited in the Library of the United States Fish Commission, in the Library of the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Hole, in the Library of the National Museum, the Li-

[1] Gray's first account of the box huckleberry, in which from Baird's specimens he was able to assign the species to its correct genus, Gaylussacia, was published in 1846 in his "Chloris Boreali-Americana," pp. 54–55 (*Mem. Amer. Acad.*, ser. 2, vol. 3). The quotation from the letter to Torrey cited above is from Jane L. Gray, 1893, "Letters of Asa Gray," p. 343, where the date assigned to the letter is October, 1846. By reference, however, to W. H. Dall, 1915, "Spencer Fullerton Baird, a Biography," pp. 132–134, it is clear that the meeting took place, and the letter was written, in April, 1846.

brary of the American Museum of Natural History and the Library of Congress.

HERMON C. BUMPUS

SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

THE LISTER INSTITUTE[1]

THE Lister Institute is unique among the medical establishments of London, because it is an independent organization endowed by private benefactors. The only comparable institution is the London School of Tropical Medicine, which, however, is in the enjoyment of government support. The Lister Institute is one of the schools of the University of London, admitted under the statute which empowers the senate to admit any institution within the prescribed area founded for the promotion of science or learning to be a school of the university for the purpose of research or the cultivation of any special branch of science or learning. Its director, Dr. C. J. Martin, F.R.S., is professor of experimental pathology in the university, while several members of its staff are readers or recognized teachers in the university. But its connection with the university is otherwise shadowy and its affairs are managed by a governing body which includes Major General Sir David Bruce, K.C.B., F.R.S. (chairman), Professor F. W. Andrewes, M.D., F.R.S., Professor W. Bulloch, F.R.S., Sir James Kingston Fowler, K.C.V.O., and Professor E. H. Starling, C.M.G., F.R.S., There is also a council containing representatives of the members of the Institute and of many learned bodies.

The report to be presented at the annual general meeting gives an account of the various activities of the institute during the year, and contains a section in which its future general policy is discussed. A great deal of the time of the staff of the institute—which, owing to the war, was much diminished—was given to routine bacteriological examinations for the London County Council and other public bodies, and the production of serums and vaccines for the War Office and the Government of Egypt. But some of the work done for the War Office has reached out to research, as, for instance, investigations made by Dr. Arkwright and Mr. Bacot as to the virus of trench fever and typhus fever, and the transmission of these diseases by lice. Miss Muriel Robertson has continued researches upon anaerobic bacteria of wounds and the preparation of standard samples of the toxin of *Vibrion septique* which have been used in preparing and standardizing the serums issued to the army from the serum laboratories of Messrs. Burroughs, Wellcome and Co. Much of present knowledge of the pathogenic anaerobes has been gained since the beginning of the war, and in its acquisition Miss Robertson, who is secretary of the anaerobic committee originated by the Medical Research Committee, has taken a prominent part.

In another direction researches stimulated by the war have yielded results of permanent importance to physiology and general medicine—and indeed to sociology and statecraft also. Dr. Harden and Dr. Zilva have made a series of investigations into the properties of accessory food factors and the effects of the deprivation of them on various animals. A related research was that conducted by Dr. Harriette Chick, at the request of the military authorities, into the cause of scurvy; it was eventually expanded to include certain other deficiency diseases. The research demanded the greatest care in the adjustment of the diets and the feeding of the animals, and the help of many volunteer workers was enlisted. This inquiry has had many parts, but those concerned with the quantitative determination of the relative antiscorbutic efficiency of natural foodstuffs, and with the loss of antiscorbutic value during the drying of vegetables, are now practically complete; work is still in progress with regard to the preservation of lemon juice and root vegetables, and as to the antiscorbutic and growth-promoting properties of cow's milk, with special reference to infant feeding. The novel feature of the investigations has been the attempt to get a quantitative estimate of the amount of accessory food facts in various foodstuffs, the first step being to determine experimentally

[1] From the *British Medical Journal.*